

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE
Council on Aging
December 11, 2012

Committee members present: Steve Colella, Rebecca MacGregor, Lillian Mills, Bill Zellen, Kara Harvey, Pauline DiCesare, and Anne Gilbert. Committee member not attending: Pat Nelson. Also attending was Julie Secord, COA Director.

Public Comment: Don Bustin told the committee that he is putting together a list of homeowners in town with data from the town census and property assessments from the town web-site. The intention of this list is to assist the committee with determining those senior residents who may be eligible for tax relief. We discussed things that have been done and might be done by the town to inform people of ways to help them stay in their homes when the property taxes are high.

Minutes of the August 14, 2012 meeting of the committee were corrected and approved. Minutes of the October 9, 2012 committee meeting were approved as written. Rebecca asked for a member of the committee to be responsible for setting an agenda for any upcoming meeting and sending this to Julie at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to be posted by the town clerk. Kara Harvey volunteered to do that and will also send out a reminder to committee members a week in advance so that a member could add something to the agenda if needed.

We discussed Massachusetts House Bill 3435 for a senior residential tax exemption that had been passed by the state legislature, signed by Governor Patrick, and approved by a town meeting vote in Sudbury very recently. We were somewhat confused by the calculation of the tax relief amount so Julie is going to request that Representative Tom Conroy talk to us about the bill. He helped get the bill through the Mass. House of Representatives. The exemption will expire in 3 years unless reaffirmed by a vote at town meeting. We would like to know more of the specifics of this bill.

Rebecca is hoping that our committee will be able to get more information out to senior town residents concerning what Wayland currently offers for senior tax relief, putting together information that can be easily understood by townspeople regarding the various options. The committee will need to determine if Wayland seniors could benefit by the Town adopting a similar senior residential tax exemption as was adopted in the Town Of Sudbury. We will be working on these things at future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25. The next meeting of the committee will be February 12, 2013 at noon.

Ann Gilbert, Clerk